

Feb 26, 2011

Janice Eklund

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Barehugger's Inc

Secretary Jennifer Johnson  
Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System  
20th Street and Constitution Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20551

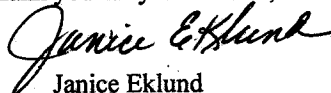
Dear Secretary Johnson-

As a John Deere dealer for the past 35 years, we offer repair services as well as sales in lawn and garden equipment. My parents passed this business on to me when they retired. My children have their own careers and will not inherit the business. Therefore, it is very important that I continue to grow my business so I am able to sell it when I retire. One barrier in my efforts to do this is card swipe fees.

It is hard to make a business work when everyone is taking a piece of the pie. We have had to let some of our employees go in order to compensate for the poor economy and swipe fees. We sell big-ticket items; customers spend 2,000 dollars and put it on a credit card. This removes some of my profit. Our average cost for swipe fees is around 800 dollars a month, but we have had charges on debit and credit cards of up to ~~300,000~~ 30,000 dollars in one month.

In order to save on swipe fees, I have been offering my customers a better price if they write me a check. The credit card companies and the consumers who use the cards should be responsible for the fees. If the swipe fees were not so high, I could afford to give raises to my employees. They work very hard and have not had a raise in two years. Please protect the small retailers and support the proposed rule to place a cap on what companies can charge.

Thank you for your service,



Janice Eklund